

NSC BRIEFING

29 April 1959

IRAQ AND ADJACENT AREAS

- I. Unrest and disorders continue to create problems for Iraq on its Syrian and Iranian frontiers and may now be spreading to the Turkish border.

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B. Baghdad believes tribal chiefs in this area are lining up additional support and are getting arms and advice from Iran and Turkey. [REDACTED] 700

Kurdish, largely women and children, recently took refuge in southern Turkey, while their men apparently intend to fight against Qasim. Note these are not Barzani Kurds who are pro-Soviet.

- II. Communists meanwhile continue to consolidate their position, especially in the economic field.

B. Economy Minister Kubba, who is main facilitator of Soviet economic penetration, announced 27 April he would seek revision of trade agreements with Free World in further effort make Iraq a planned, controlled economy along Soviet lines.

- II. Ankara has become increasingly concerned over gravity of Communist threat in Iraq and implications for Turkish security.

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3. As matter of utmost urgency Prime Minister Menderes has proposed American-Turkish talks on subject.

B. While Turks may still hope that something can be done to persuade Qasim of the Communist danger, their grant of asylum (for the first time) to Iraqi refugees suggests they are prepared to jeopardize the ^utenous access to Qasim which they have had.

III. In Iran, propaganda from Moscow and from a new clandestine "National Voice of Iran" located in either Iraq or Soviet Union, attacking Shah and seeking to incite tribal elements against the government.

A. Rumors circulating in Tehran and southern Iran that Qashqai tribal leaders are being encouraged to return from exile to lead the tribes against the government.

C. On 28 April Radio Moscow, broadcasting in Persian, for first time made specific reference to anti-Shah Qashqai tribes and to Iranian Kurds.

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